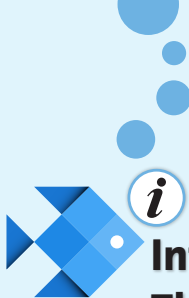




Smart Fishing – Watching Over the Sea

Information for the Fisherman –
The Main Points of the Fishery Regulations in Israel





Information for the Fisherman – The Main Points of the Fishery Regulations

In December 2016, the updated fishery regulations came into force. This update is part of the rehabilitation of the Mediterranean fishing industry. The regulations were set and updated by the Fishery Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, and they were approved by the Knesset Economics Committee.

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is the official entity in the State of Israel responsible for enforcing the laws of nature conservation in Israel, and, as of January 2018, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority is also responsible for supervising all the fisheries in Israel and enforcing the fishing regulations and the Fishery Ordinance.

The aim of the law, regulations and accepted practices is to improve the state of the fishing industry in Israel through managing the sustainability of the fishery resources. This management will be carried out through research, overall management of the fishery branch, and supervision and enforcement of the regulations. In order to enforce the updated fishery regulations and the Fishery Ordinance, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority has established a marine supervisory system to operate in the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Eilat and the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret).

In order to ensure clear and easy access to the updated regulations, we have prepared a document that presents the main points in the regulations. It is important to emphasize that the content contained herein is only explanatory, and in no case replaces what is written in “The Fishery Ordinance and Regulations – 1937” and the “Fishing Licenses – Procedure” documents.

This content does not replace the fishing regulations that are mandatory according to the law.

The complete documents, including the original and the updated regulations, can be found on the Ministry of Agriculture’s website.



Fisherman – it is important to know:

- The regulations were set by the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Nature and Parks Authority has been chosen to enforce these regulations.
- The Nature and Parks Authority intends to enforce the law sensitively but firmly – encompassing all fishing methods, all sectors and all fishermen.
- **Whenever you encounter a marine ranger of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, whether at sea, on the beach or at the harbor, you are legally obligated to identify yourself, show your licenses and obey the ranger's instructions.**
- **Fishing in marine nature reserves is banned by law.**
- **Fishing for and trade in protected species is also banned outside marine nature reserves.**
- The complete list of protected species can be found on the Nature and Parks Authority website – www.parks.org.il

**Please, uphold the regulations and care for marine life –
and avoid unnecessary fines and penalties.**



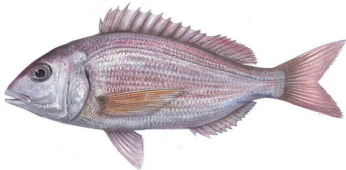
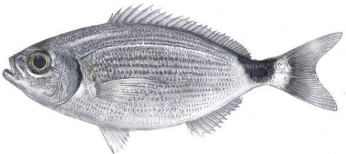
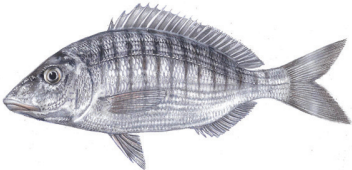

Regulations in force for all marine areas and during all approved fishing seasons:

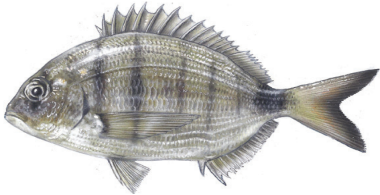
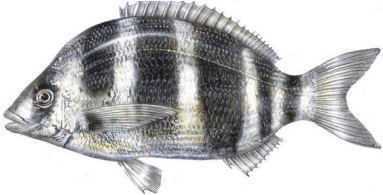



- Fishing is strictly forbidden using a compressed air tank (or any air supply devices).
- Fishing is strictly forbidden using a dragnet.
- Fishing by means of any type of explosive and all harmful or toxic substances is strictly banned.
- Fishing by means of a rod with a multiple stinger hook ("anchor"), which is thrown in order to catch the fish by its body is strictly prohibited.


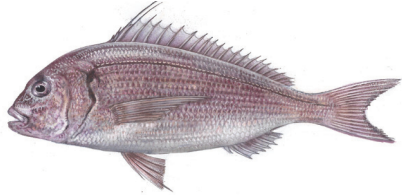
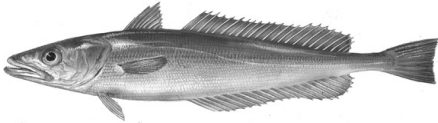
• **Minimum size**

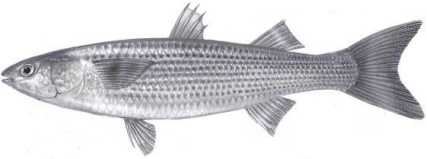


The minimum size is the shortest permitted length for a caught fish as approved by law. The fish is measured when laid flat, from the tip of its mouth to the tip of its tail. The minimum length limit was determined in order to prevent the fishing of young fish that have not yet attained sexual maturity, and therefore cannot produce offspring and create a future generation.


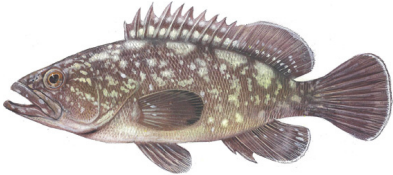


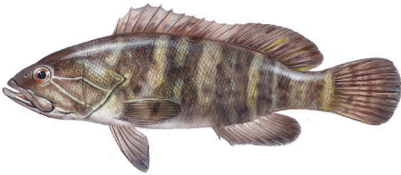
If a fish is caught that is shorter than the detailed limitation, it should be thrown back into the water immediately.


Marine fish		
Min. Length	Fish name	
11 cm and more	Common pandora <i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>	
	Saddled bream <i>Oblada melanura</i>	
	Sand steenbras <i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>	
	Bogue <i>Boops boops</i>	

Marine fish		
Min. Length	Fish name	
11 cm and more	White seabream <i>Diplodus sargus</i>	
	Zebra seabream <i>Diplodus cervinus</i>	
	Annular seabream <i>Diplodus annularis</i>	
	Red mullet <i>Mullus barbatus</i>	
	Striped red mullet <i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	
	Golden banded goatfish <i>Upeneus moluccensis</i>	
	<i>Trachurus sp.</i>	

Marine fish		
Min. Length	Fish name	
11 cm and more	Shrimp scad	<i>Alepes djedaba</i>
	Round sardinella	<i>Sardinella aurita</i>
	Madeiran sardinella	<i>Sardinella maderensis</i>
	Rainbow sardine	<i>Dussumieria acuta</i>
15 cm and more	Gilt-head bream <i>Sparus aurata</i>	
	Pink dentex <i>Dentex gibbosus</i>	
	<i>Pagrus sp</i>	
16 cm and more	Hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	
	Common sole	<i>Solea vulgaris</i>
	Lizard fish	<i>Saurida undosquamis</i>

Marine fish		
Min. Length	Fish name	
20 cm and more	Flathead grey mullet <i>Mugil cephalus</i>	
	Golden grey mullet <i>Liza aurata</i>	
	Leaping mullet <i>Liza saliens</i>	
	Thicklip grey mullet <i>Chelon labrosus</i>	
	Thinlip grey mullet <i>Liza ramada</i>	
	European barracuda <i>Sphyraena sphyraena</i>	
	Yellowstripe barracuda <i>Sphyraena chrysotaenia</i>	
	Wreckfish <i>Polyprion americanus</i>	
30 cm and more	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	

Marine fish		
Min. Length	Fish name	
40 cm and more	Meagre <i>Argirosomus regius</i>	
	Dusky grouper <i>Epinephelus guaza</i> (<i>Epinephelus marginatus</i>)	
	Goldblotch grouper <i>Epinephelus alexandrinus</i> (<i>Epinephelus costae</i>)	
	Mottled grouper <i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>	
	White grouper <i>Epinephelus aeneus</i>	
70 cm and more	Atlantic bluefin tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	

Fresh water fish		
Min. Length	Fish name	
12 cm and more	Kinneret bleak <i>Mirogex terraesanctae</i>	
18 cm and more	Tristram's St Peter's fish <i>Tristramella simonis</i>	
20 cm and more	Blue tilapia <i>Oreochromis aureus</i>	
22 cm and more	Mango tilapia <i>Sarotherodon galilaeus</i>	
30 cm and more	Jordan barbel <i>Barbus longiceps</i>	
	Damascus barbel <i>Capoeta damascina</i>	
	Large scale barbel <i>Carasobarbus canis</i>	
45 cm and more	Flathead grey mullet <i>Mugil cephalus</i>	
	Thinlip grey mullet <i>Liza ramada</i>	
80 cm and more	Silver carp <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	



Commercial Fishing (Professional):

Dear Fisherman,

Following are the main points of the updated fishery regulations. It is important for us to ensure that all professionals working in the field of fishing know the requirements of the law. This enables us to “stay on the same page” and work together in full cooperation.

Commercial Fishing Licenses

- A commercial fishing license is required for commercial fishing. Also, in order for a fisherman to obtain a commercial fishing license, the fishing boat he uses for fishing must have a commercial license – according to the Fishery Ordinance and the requirements of the fishing licenses.
- In any case, **it is only permitted to fish using the fishing methods specified in the license.**

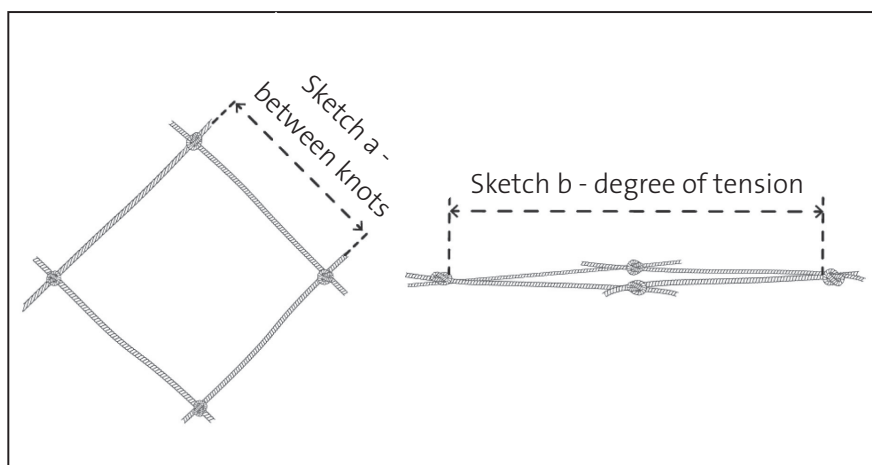


Measures that help drag the fishing net :

- Fishing is strictly forbidden using a fishing net from a kayak, an inflatable fishing tube or any other buoy.

- **Mesh size:**

Any netting used for a specific fishing method has a minimum mesh size. The size is measured in two ways: between two knots (see sketch a in the diagram) and the degree of tension (see sketch b in the diagram).





The main points of the regulations, divided into specific marine areas and specific fishing methods:

Mediterranean Sea

Trawling

- **Fishing is banned during the “recruitment season” (when young fish join already existing adult schools)****

Every year, fishing will be banned for up to 90 consecutive days between 1 May and 31 August, as determined by the Chief Fishery Officer. A notice of the exact dates will be published by the Chief Fishery Officer in a daily newspaper. In 2019, fishing will be banned from 1 July to 31 August.

- **Sack length**

Using a sack that is less than 4 m long is banned.

- **“Dragging”**

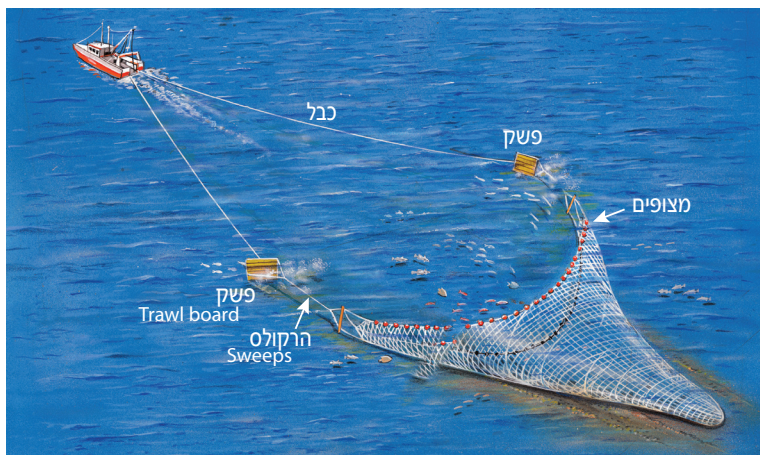
Using a plank attached to the front of the netting so that it drags on the sea floor is banned.

- **Measures that help drag the fishing net**

Using balls, tires, wheels, or other netting accessories to help drag the net on rocks and prevent it from becoming entangled in the rocks is banned.

- **Mesh size**

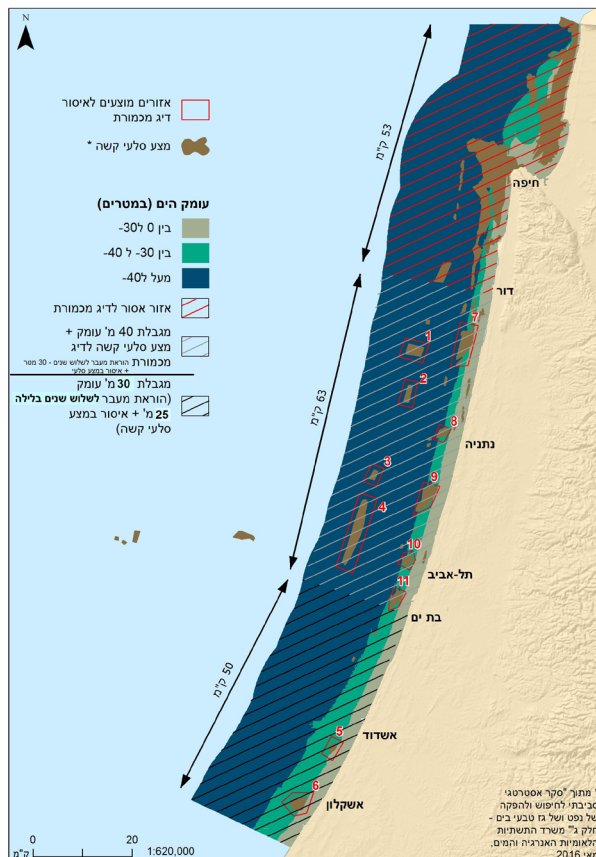
For the net, the minimum mesh size is 22 mm between knots or a degree of tension of 44 mm. For the sack, the minimum mesh size is 24 mm between knots or a degree of tension of 48 mm.



Trawling

● Areas where fishing is banned* (shown on the map):

- ✓ Defined rocky areas
- ✓ North of the Dor-HaBonim line
- ✓ ** From the Dor-HaBonim line to the Bat Yam line, in waters that are less than 30 m deep
- ✓ ** From south of the Bat Yam line, in waters that are less than 30 m deep
- ✓ ** From south of the Bat Yam line at night time (between 21:00 and 05:00), in areas in which the waters are less than 25 m deep
- ✓ ** Additional areas in which fishing is banned during the temporary (three year) period: • West of Hadera • West of Netanya • West of Herzliya • West of Tel Aviv • West of Bat Yam



The areas can be seen on the attached map, and the exact coordination points of these areas can be found in the file – "The Fishing Regulations (Update) – 2016".

** Temporary regulations: These regulations are valid for 3 years from the day of their publication (that is, until December 2019)

Coastal Fishing

- **Fishing is banned during the breeding season ****

Every year, fishing will be banned for up to 90 consecutive days between 1 March and 1 July, as determined by the Chief Fishery Officer. A notice of the exact dates will be published by the Chief Fishery Officer in daily newspapers and on the website of the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 2019, fishing will be banned between 28 April and 30 May. This ban does not apply to trawl fishing and beach fishing with a rod.

- **Grouper fishing is banned during the breeding season**

Fishing for the sub-group Serranidae (Grouper) is banned, according to the notice by the Chief Fishery Officer published each year. In 2019, the Grouper fishing ban will be in effect between 28 April and 29 June. This ban applies to all fishing methods, including beach fishing with a rod. If such a fish is caught, it must be thrown back immediately into the water.

- **Trammel nets (Gill/Trammel Nets)**

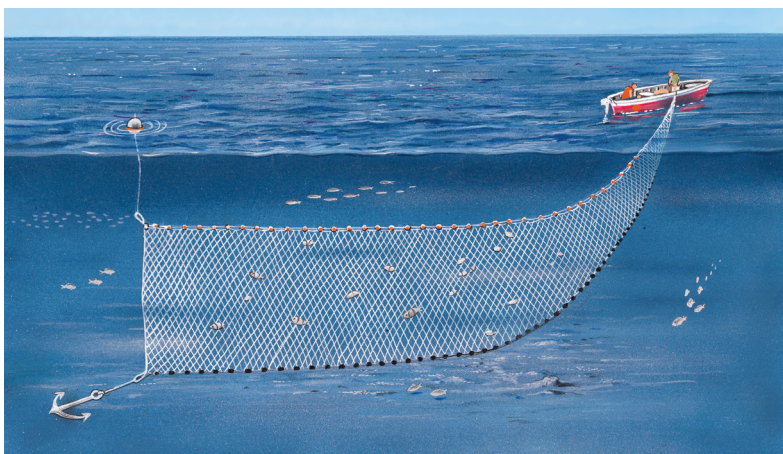
The minimum mesh size is 30 mm between knots.

- **Fishing in rivers and river estuaries**

Fishing with a net in river estuaries leading to the Mediterranean Sea and within 100 m from the place in which they open to the sea is banned.

- **Fish movement control**

Using any means designed to encourage fish to swim into nets or traps, or by means of moving the fish out of a hiding place is banned.



Trammel Net

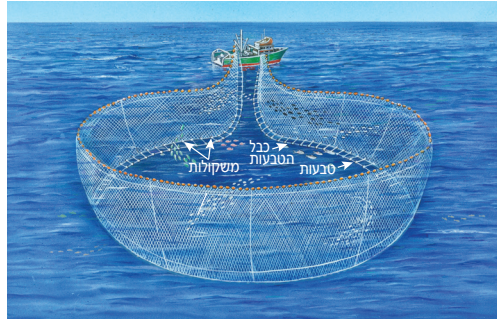


** Temporary regulations: These regulations are valid for 3 years from the day of their publication (that is, until December 2019).

Seine fishing

Purse seine

- This method is banned in the area less than 500 m from the shore.
- The minimum mesh size in a purse seine is 10 mm between knots.



Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret)

- **Fishing is banned during the nesting and egg-laying of Mango tilapia (*Sarotherodon galilaeus*) fish****

Every year, fishing is banned for up to 90 consecutive days between 15 March and 15 July, as determined by the Chief Fishery Officer. The ban applies to the following areas:



A notice of the exact dates will be published by the Chief Fisheries Officer in a daily newspaper and on the website of the Fisheries Division in the Ministry of Agriculture.



** Temporary regulations: These regulations are valid for 3 years from the day of their publication (that is, until December 2019).

- **Long line**

This fishing method is banned in the Sea of Galilee.

- **Cast net**

This fishing method is banned in the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River basin (Lake Hula, the Jordan River and all the streams that flow into it).

- **Trammel Nets (Gill/Trammel Nets)**

Fishing in this method is forbidden from the beach around the Sea of Galilee, but is permitted from a boat, provided that the total length of the nets is less than 1,000 m.

- **Purse seine**

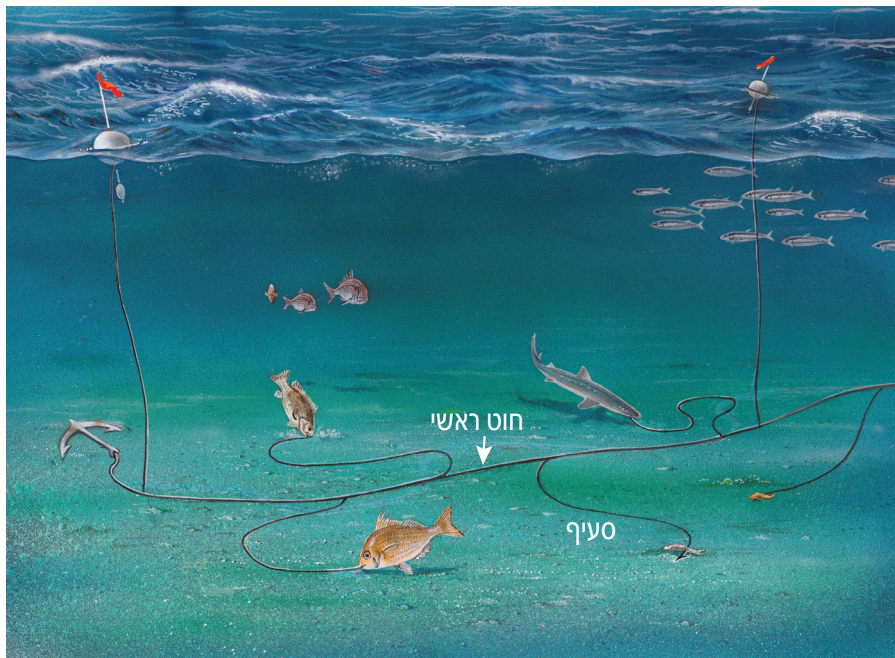
The fishing of tilapia, catfish and barbus by this method is banned in the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River basin, under the following conditions:

- ✓ The sack length is less than 15 m.

- ✓ The sack height is less than 10 m.

- **Minimum mesh size:**

In both cast net and trammel net, 45 mm between knots



Long line in the sea water

Gulf of Eilat

- **Trammel nets (Gill/Trammel Nets)**

Fishing using this method is banned from the beach of the Gulf of Eilat, but is permitted by boat, provided that the total length of the nets is less than 2,000 m.

The minimum mesh size in a trammel net is 30 mm between knots.

- Areas where fishing is banned*



- **Cast net**

This fishing method is banned in the Gulf of Eilat.

- Purse seine

The minimum mesh size in a purse seine net is 10 mm between knots.

- **Fixed net:**

A fixed net or grille must not be anchored to the sea floor for more than 7 days. The minimum mesh size in fish or crab traps is 30 mm between knots/links in all parts of the trap. A buoy must be attached to the trap and be accompanied by a plastic label with the trap owner's fishing license details.



* The exact coordinates of these areas can be found in the file “Fishery Regulations, 1937” and on the Nature and Parks Authority website.





רישיון דיג אישי מקצועי



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תאריך מתן תוקף עד
31/12/2018

מספר תעודת זהות
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שם
ירשאר' ירשאר

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תל אביב

כתובת
יפו

תל אביב - יפו

שו"מ לזכות הסובן
 0-07611-6
 גבס הדארט
 תחום תלמידים

459.00
 ש"ח

ראה גם נתונים המופיעים בגב הרישיון

17





Recreational Fishing

Dear Fisherman,

Recreational fishing is fishing for leisure and pleasure; fishermen who enjoy the sea are required to act according to the law and help maintain the fishery resources.

It is important for us that you, a recreational fisherman, will know the law so that you can make the most of the fishing sport, and so that together we will work in full cooperation. The following are the main points of the updated fishery regulations.

Recreational Fishing Licenses

- Every fisherman in Israel is required to hold a fishing license, apart from those who are rod fishing from the beach.
- The Chief Fishery Officer can provide two types of recreational fishing licenses: Individual and boat licenses.
- According to a Recreational Fishing License, the following fishing methods are permitted, and these require a valid recreational fishing license:
 1. Using a rod that is not cast from the beach. For fishing that uses more than 3 active rods, a recreational fishing license is required for the vessel from which the fishing activity is conducted.
 2. Free diving without the use of an artificial breathing apparatus, only in the Mediterranean Sea.
- A recreational fishing license for a boat includes:
 - ✓ Fishing using a maximum of 12 single rods
 - ✓ Free-diving fishing, in the Mediterranean Sea only

Regulations applied to all marine areas and during all seasons when fishing is permitted:

- Daily fishing is limited to a maximum of 5 kg or 2 large fish at most (even if each fish weighs more than 5 kg).



The main points of the regulations, divided into marine areas

Mediterranean Sea:

- **Fishing is banned during the breeding season ****

Every year, fishing will be banned for up to 90 consecutive days between 1 March and 31 July, as determined by the Chief Fishery Officer. A notice of the exact dates will be published by the Chief Fishery Officer in a daily newspaper. In 2019, fishing will be banned from 28 April to 30 May.

This ban does not apply to rod fishing or trawling.

- **Grouper fishing is banned during the breeding season**

Fishing for Serranidae (Grouper) is banned according to a notice from the Chief Fishery Officer, published every year. In 2019, the Grouper fishing ban lasts from 28 April to 29 June. This ban applies to all fishing methods, including beach fishing with a rod. If such a fish is caught, it must be thrown back in the water immediately.

Sea of Galilee:

- **The only licensed fishing method permitted in the Sea of Galilee is fishing with a rod and from a boat.**

- **"Fishing is banned during the nesting and egg-laying of Mango tilapia (*Sarotherodon galilaeus*) fish****

Every day between 15 March and 15 July, as determined by the Chief Fishery Officer. The ban applies to the following areas:



During this period, fishing is banned outside the range of 100 m from the shoreline, in the entire area of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret).

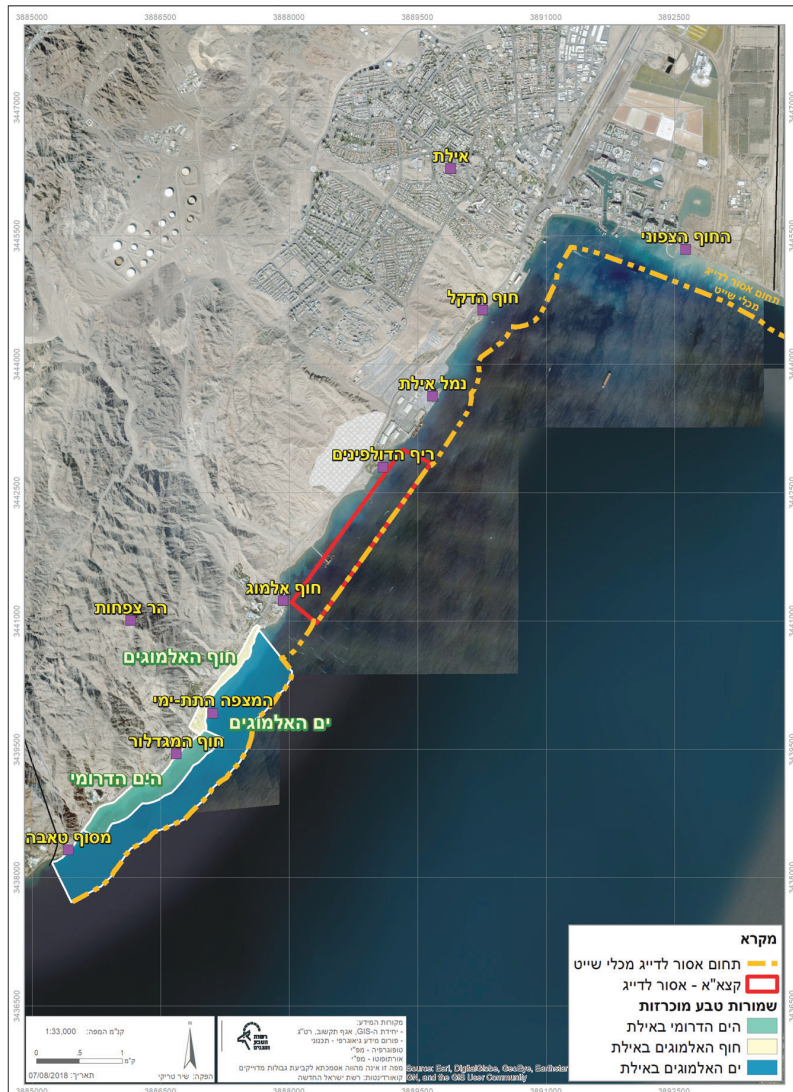
A notice of the exact dates will be published by the Chief Fishery Officer in a daily newspaper and on the website of the Fishery Division in the Ministry of Agriculture.



**** Temporary regulations:** These regulations are valid for 3 years from the day of their publication (that is, until December 2019).

The Gulf of Eilat:

- The only licensed fishing method permitted in the Gulf of Eilat is fishing with a rod and from a boat.
- Fishing is only permitted beyond the range of 300 m from the shoreline.
- Areas where fishing is banned*:



* The exact coordination points of these areas can be found in the file – “The Fishing Regulations (Update) – 2016” and on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website.



תנאים כלליים:

1. הרשיין הינו בר תוקף כשהוא נושא את תומכת בנק הדואר.
2. בעל רישיון זה חייב לשאת רישיון זה בצמוד לרישיון שיש תקף מאת רשות הסננות ורובמלים, בכל עת שהספינה נמצאת בים.
3. רישיון חייב להוציא את הרשיין לפי דרישת פקיד הרג, בלתי כל הטיס או שוטר.
4. בעל הרשיין ולא מי מטעמו ינהג בכלי השיט בהתאם להוראות כל דין, תוך הקפדה על שמירת חוקי הרג.

מדינת ישראל
משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר
אגף הדגים והאקוואקולטור



רישיון דג מסווגי לפינה
(לפי פקודת הדג, 1937)

דג (פסור) 9432

מוקם אגף הרג:
אתר אגף הרג:

www.fishery.moag.gov.il

באור ניתן למצוא את תקנות הדג ופרסומים נוספים.

תנאים כלליים:

1. בעל הרשיש חייב לשלוח את הרשיש בעת הדגירה ולהגיש את הרשיש לפי הדרכת דיג או שומר.

2. על בעל הרשיש להקפיד על שמירת חוק הרגבולת המתפרסמת בדג.

3. דיג באמצעות זרקה תת-ימי בלבד וריקת מומר בים תיכן בלבד.

4. כמות שלל הדגים המותרת להעלה לרשיש אישית היא 5 ק"ג או לשני סוחרים אף אם משקל כל אחד מהם עולה על 5 ק"ג.

מדינת ישראל
משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר
אגף הדגים וחקלאות מים



רשיש דיג אישי ספורטיבי
(לפי סקודת דריג, 1937)

ירג (שומר) שלל הדג

מוקד אגף הדגים: *9432
www.fishery.moag.gov.il

באתר ניתן למצוא את תקנות הדגים ופרסומים נוספים.

Samples of Recreational Fishing Licenses – both for an individual and for a boat



A Reminder: Protected species and marine nature reserves

Protected Species

It is totally forbidden to fish for any of these species, in any size and by any means:

- All species of sharks and batoids (such as catfish and rhinobatos)
- Scyllarides latus (lobsters)
- All species of marine mammals
- All species of marine turtles



If you have come across an injured marine mammal or reptile that needs medical attention:

**Contact the Israel Nature and Parks Authority at
*3639 (24 hours a day).**

Fishing is strictly forbidden in marine nature reserves.

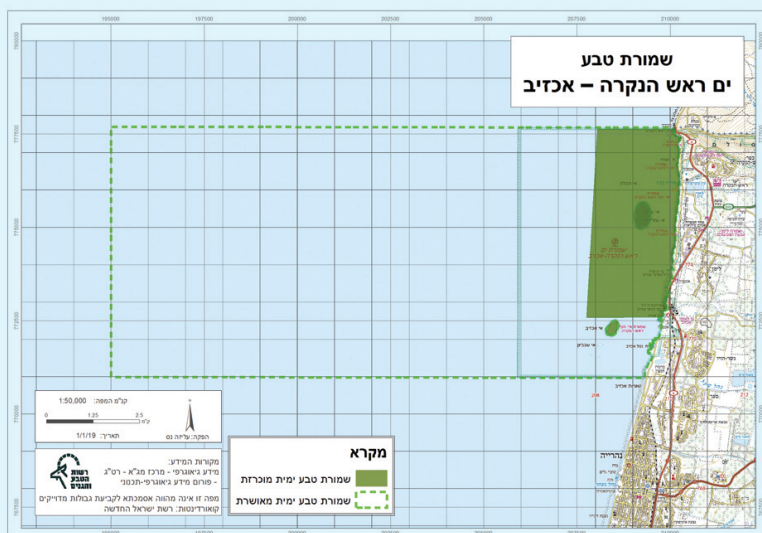
Every fisherman is required to know the borders of the marine nature reserves.

The borders of some of the marine nature reserves can be identified with the help of green-and-white posts [“transits”] on the beach. To know that you have crossed the border into the reserve, look at the two posts. When they are aligned together and the back post is hidden by the front one – this shows that you are standing on the border.



These are the currently declared marine nature reserves in Israel:

Rosh Hanikra - Achziv



Western border: 2000 m from the shoreline

Northern border: The Israel-Lebanon border (the white rock of Rosh Hanikra)

Southern border: The wooden cabin of Eli Avivi

- **Please note:** The northern island group of Rosh Hanikra is about 1 km from the shoreline, in the heart of the reserve!

A plan to expand the area of the reserve has been approved and is in advanced stages towards declaration. The approved reserve will extend 15 kilometers from the shoreline, from the Israel-Lebanon border in the north to the northern border of the city of Nahariya in the south.

Shikmona

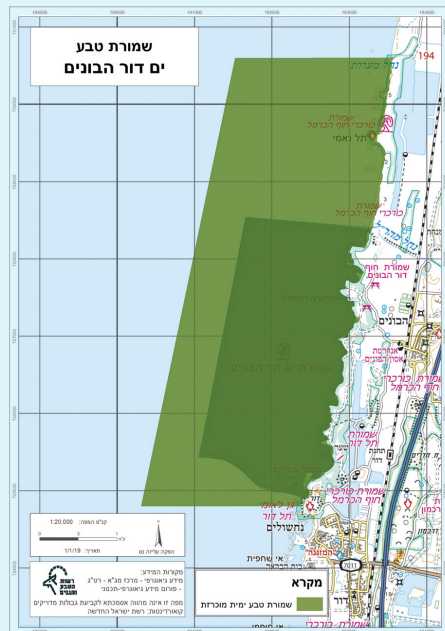


Western border: 1 km from the shoreline

Northern border: The Israel Oceanographic & Limnological Research Building

Southern border: Maxim Restaurant

Dor-HaBonim



Western border: about 2 km from the shoreline

Northern border: Nahal Me'arot estuary (the second dune south of Neve Yam)

Southern border: The northern border of Dor Beach (including Tel Dor)

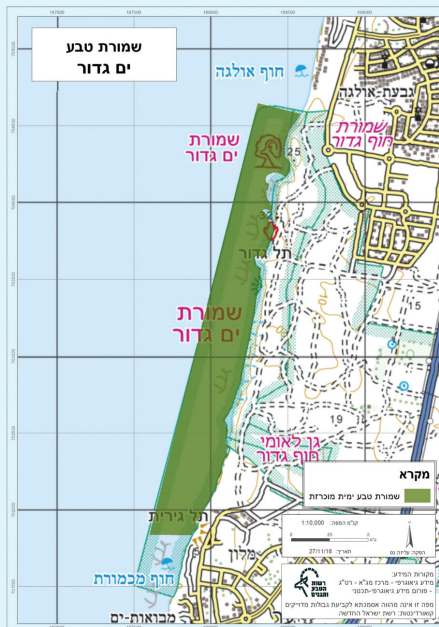
Dor Beach and Ma'agan Michael Islands



Hofami Island: The largest and southern-most of the group of islands opposite Moshav Dor, south of Tel Dor.

HaYonim Island: The central and largest island opposite Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, with green signs.

Gdor Sea Reserve

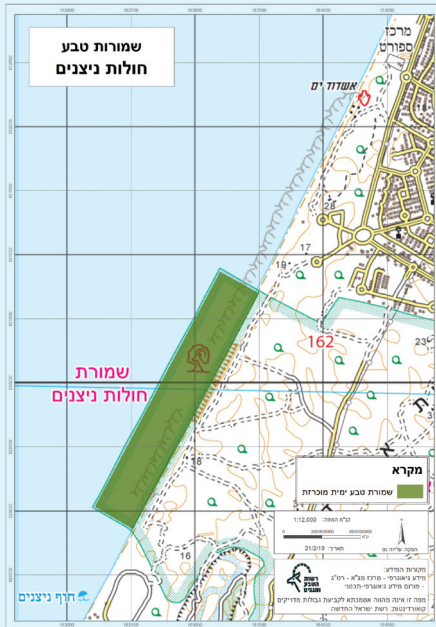


Western border: 300 m from the shoreline. The reserve is marked with transits on the beach.

Northern border: The pool at the southern part of Olga Beach

Southern border: Tel Gerrit
south of the Kushi restaurant

Holot Nitsanim [sea]

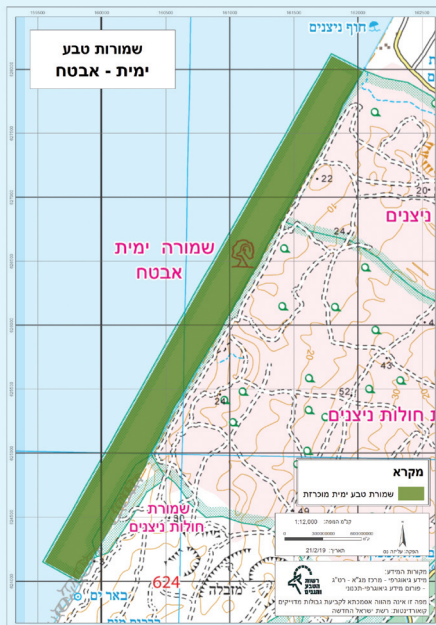


Western border: 300 m from the shoreline. The reserve is marked with transits on the beach.

Northern border: From the southern beach of Ashdod (Tet Vav Beach)

Southern border: The northern border of the swimming beach in Nitsanim

Avtach Nature Reserve



Western border: 300 m from the shoreline

Northern border: Nitsanim Beach

Southern border: Ashkelon's northern border

Shikma Nature Reserve

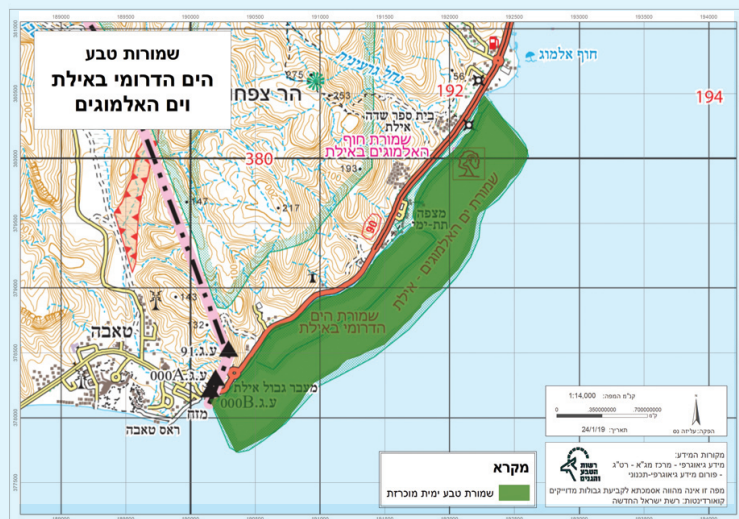


Western border: 300 m from the shoreline. The reserve is marked with "transits" on the beach.

Northern border: 500 m south of the Ashkelon Power Station

Southern border: The border with Gaza (closed military area)

Coral Beach Nature Reserve and the Southern Sea Nature Reserve



The two nature reserves create a continuous protected marine area.

Eastern border: about 500 m from the shoreline

Northern border: From south of the DeepSiam diving club

Southern border: Taba Border Crossing

● Please note:

Adjacent to these reserves, there are areas with additional fishing restrictions (See the map of the Gulf of Eilat on page 21).



Thank you for your cooperation,

Yigael Ben Ari, Head of the Marine Ranger Force,
Israel Nature and Parks Authority

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Israel Nature and Parks Authority - *3639

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Editor: Mai Lazarus

Only if you, the fishermen, cooperate with us will we succeed in realizing the common goal – sustainable management of the fishery resources in Israel – which will enable us all to continue to enjoy the sea and its limited resources. Keeping to the regulations will help us in this effort.

We intend to enforce the law with sensitivity, but also with determination and without compromise.
Please join us in safeguarding the sea.

We emphasize once again – the main points mentioned here are explanatory only, and in no case does this content replace what is written in “The Fishery Ordinance and Regulations – 1937” and the “Fishing License – Procedure” documents, which are mandatory by law.



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